

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 12-14, 16, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bremer (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,190). Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bremer in view of either Demange, Hebb, Galand, or other admitted prior art. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 1 and 21 recite "storing in a first stage queue packet-related data from a sending port" and "storing in a second stage queue associated with each determined destination port the packet-related data from the first stage queue." Claim 13 similarly recites "a first stage queue storing packet-related data from a sending port" and "a second stage queue associated with each of a set of destination ports storing the packet-related data from the first stage queue."

The recited elements are neither taught nor suggested by Bremer. The Examiner contends that the header-in store (FIG. 3, box 48) disclosed by Bremer reads upon the recited first stage queue, and the header-out store (FIG. 3, box 58) disclosed by Bremer reads upon the recited second stage queue. However, claims 1, 13, and 21 all require that the second stage queue store "the packet-related data from the first stage queue." In the system disclosed by Bremer, the header-in store stores the header information of an inbound data packet, but the header-out store stores a modified header information, and not the same header information retrieved from the data packet. Bremer discloses that a packet processing unit (PPU) modifies the header, such as by adding a next hop network address into the address portion, and the modified header portion is then stored in the header-out store. (See, Col. 5, lines 25-29 and 41-54). Accordingly, claims 1, 13, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

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Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 17, and 19 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

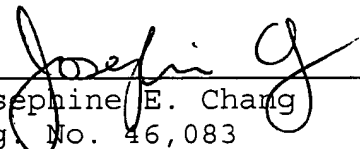
Claim 22 is new in this application. Claim 22 recites "storing in a first stage queue a pointer to memory storing a data packet and a list of destination ports" and "storing in a second stage queue associated with the identified destination port the retrieved pointer to memory." Nothing in Bremer nor any of the cited references teach or suggest these limitations. Accordingly, claim 22 is also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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